

OCA 88-1156
13 April 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

Director of Personnel

FROM: [] Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: Meeting with Post Office and Civil Service
Staff on FERS Second Chance.

1. Yesterday, [] Office of Congressional
Affairs, [] Office of Personnel, and I met with several
staffers from the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee
to discuss the reasons for our submitting a provision in the FY
1989 Intelligence Authorization Bill which would grant a FERS
"second chance" to a small group of Agency employees. Staffers
present from the Committee were Thomas DeYulia, majority staff
director, Robert Lockhart, General Counsel, and Joesph Fisher,
minority staff director. Andrew Feinstein, staff director for
the Subcommittee on Civil Service was present as was Bernard
Raimo from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

2. The meeting was prompted by Michael O'Neil of the HPSCI
staff who had failed to convince the Post Office and Civil
Service Committee of the need for the FERS second chance
provision. He had requested that we meet with House Post
Office and Civil Service Committee staff. The undersigned
briefly reviewed the provisions of CIARDS and FERS Special,
explained why the Agency ended up with this small group of
about [] employees who under current law would be denied the
opportunity to join FERS Special, and why we were seeking to
rectify what we believed was an inequity. Pearline explained
what the language in the Authorization Act would accomplish and
dealt with alternative language which would make the change
even less visible. [] answered several detailed questions
about the State Department retirement system and the Agency
FERS program.

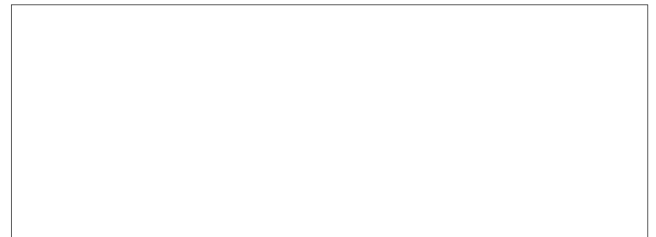
2. The staff started off very skeptical about what we were
proposing. They and the Committee Members are intent upon
limiting any openings to FERS by "special groups." However,
the staff finally came to understand what we wanted and why,
concluding that this was indeed a unique problem. They
initially indicated that they could probably get their
Committee Members to agree to our language, but, when informed
that the Bill would go to mark-up the next day, they said such


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concurrence would not be possible on such short notice. There followed some discussion about bringing the provision up on the House floor, but that option was rejected because of the attention such action would bring. Finally, when they were informed that the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Services, Post Office and Civil Service supported the Agency position and that the SSCI would include the FERS second chance in their version of the Authorization Bill, we reached a compromise. The HPSCI will not introduce the provision in mark-up today, but the SSCI will next week. In the ensuing Conference to work out differences, HPSCI will support the the FERS second chance provision and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee will not object when the bill is brought up to a floor vote.

3. Politically, this is the ideal solution for the House Members of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. According to the staffers, the compromise does not put them in the position of supporting a change to FERS for a special group, but at the same time permits the Agency to protect a truly unique group.

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